

## Talk with ADE

Friday, April 23, 2004  
Balsz Elementary District Board Room  
10:00 a.m.

- ✓ Welcome by Joanne Phillips
- ✓ Reauthorization – Last week of March 2005
- ✓ Review of Joanne's current activities:
  - AT Task Force being formed - 3-year program to be funded by a capacity building grant to create a system of AT training. The first year will be spent developing the training program. The next two years will be spent creating teams and training them to train school staff on basic AT techniques. The task force will also work with NAU to create/offer classes for AT certification.

Within the next few weeks, a QIAT survey will be on-line for response from districts, charters and private day schools to gauge what is currently available.

- Two task force committees are being formed in cooperation with Academic Achievement.
  - Graduation Requirements/Diploma Alternatives – task force will review what other states are doing. This task force has good representation across state.
  - Significantly Cognitively Disabled – task force will be put together to look at the 1% cap after this year's test results (good data) are completed; 7/15 would be the earliest date. This task force is for people who understand the data and like crunching numbers.
- Emergency Certification – The Attorney General's Office issued an opinion that emergency certification is not available to private day schools and public schools cannot apply on behalf of private day schools. Teacher exams will be given in July and August. Contact Brenda Morgan at [bmorgan@ade.az.gov](mailto:bmorgan@ade.az.gov) to see what people who are currently on emergency certification need to complete their certification. NAU is willing to do weekend classes, but not weekday classes for people who need to finish 6 hours of classes over the summer. There was discussion about universities not putting out enough teachers to meet the needs of the disabled community.

- There was discussion of requirements for highly qualified teachers. Joanne explained that NCLB did not allow a lot of latitude for creativity. It was stressed that districts look at alternative staffing patterns, be flexible in staffing ratios and blending of special ed and regular ed. Be sure to document any changes that would affect the way a student is receiving services in the IEP.
- A task force addressing speech and language certification is scheduled to start in August.
- Reciprocal teaching certificates are good for one year.
- AIMS testing – test on level when possible. Questions regarding multiple testing formats at the same grade level were referred to Roberta Alley at [ralley@ade.az.gov](mailto:ralley@ade.az.gov).
- SPED high school graduating requirements should be set by the IEP team in the age 14 transition plan. Private school standards must meet public school standards. It was suggested that students ‘aging out’ should receive a certificate of completion.
- TEACCH – It was reported that the Level 2 class was being cancelled. Level 1 had one opening which was quickly claimed. A waiting list will be started. A description of program and cost was provided.
- Paraprofessional training – discussion on whether community college course work was meeting requirements for teaching.
- Tentative allocation numbers are in – there is a slight increase with a decrease in pre-school. The 0-3 population is under identified in Maricopa County. The 3-5 numbers are increasing, but are hard to define due to under refinement of tests.
- ESY numbers are down due to new interpretation. Joanne warned districts to be very careful regarding loss of FAPE.
- It was stressed that communication between home school districts and private day schools was very important to be sure services are provided as outlined in IEPs.
- There was discussion on when to involve law enforcement when laws are being broken and why this needs to be done.

- Discretionary grants will go before the State Board of Education in May.
- It was clarified that due process cannot be filed against parents who refuse special education services at the time of initial placement.
- There was discussion regarding how competitive recruiting efforts and presentations have become at national conferences.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.